

Community Preservation Act Committee Proposal Request Form for FY 2016

Date: June 30, 2015

Submitting Entity:

Contact Person: Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager

Contact Phone: 259-3045

Contact Email: ziomekd@amherstma.gov

Overview of Proposal: – Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The proposal seeks funding to completely redesign and rehabilitate the preschool playground at the Crocker Farm School.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates

Please see the attached plan and estimates prepared by the Berkshire Design Group.

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

The Town of Amherst has appropriated \$25,000 towards this project. In addition, the Preschool Program applied for and received an Amherst Education Foundation (AEF) grant of \$14,000 to be used for specific materials for the preschool play area. The school district is paying for the design and engineering on the project. During Fall 2015, the Preschool Program will begin a public fundraising campaign with the hopes of raising at least \$3,000. We will also pursue Rotary Club Funds to support for this effort.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds, if awarded, would be spent including over multiple years

All funds will be used during the build process in Spring/Summer of 2016.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any

This grant application is addressing the dire need for an appropriate playground for the preschool children who are enrolled in the Amherst Public Schools Preschool Program, located at Crocker Farm Elementary School. This is the only public playground for preschool aged children in Amherst. The ARPS Preschool Programs have been located at Crocker Farm since the addition was built in 2001. There is a fenced in play yard that is not ADA accessible, does not meet state and national playground standards for early childhood, and does not provide preschool age children with the kind of stimulating motor and social interactions that are critical for their overall development.

The funds are requested at this time so that construction can begin immediately following the end of the school year in June 2016; it cannot wait until July because of the estimated

duration of construction. Requesting funds at this time will also help the Town and School coordinate the project with the annual budget cycle.

While there are two additional playgrounds at Crocker Farm, they are both designed for children ages 5 – 12. Preschool children with significant motor delays are not able to access the play structures and equipment. Also, both are located near parking lots and lack fencing, which is a state and federal requirement for early childhood play spaces.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion

The goal is to begin construction in spring 2016 and complete the rehabilitation of the playground by September 2016, in time for the next school year.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources

Many of the current materials and play structures located in the fenced in area include commercial products that are meant for homes, not public school playgrounds – plastic climbing structures that are not secured to the ground, a small plastic sandbox, and various large plastic vehicles. These play structures pose a safety risk to the children and are not compliant with the standards and regulations.

A June 2014 review of the space found that the play yard equipment was not in compliance with State and Federal guidelines (see attached). Equipment that was found to be deficient has since been removed, thereby limiting ways our students can engage in play that develops a range of muscle groups and facilitates pretend play.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project

The ARPS Preschool serves both children with and without special needs. The preschool enrollment can serve up to 80 children. Of the current enrollment of 76 students, 20 families are income eligible for reduced tuition due to income and family size. The ratio of children with special needs to those without is 50% of each population. Therefore, approximately 50% of the children enrolled have some type of special need in the areas of social, communication, motor, executive functioning, and/or sensory.

Additionally, the playground is the only one in Amherst serving preschool aged children. The playground is open to the public outside of school hours and can be used by local families and children.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

The playground will be maintained by ARPS facilities staff, just as the other school play spaces are.

7. How the Project is prioritized by requesting Town committees or commissions?

At this time the project has not been reviewed by Town boards or committees, although this will be part of the process in the next 2-3 months.

This project is a collaboration between school and Town staff: Ronald Bohonowicz (Facilities Director), JoAnn Smith (ARPS Student Services) , Derek Shea (Crocker Farm Principal), Michele Regan-Ladd (Preschool Director) , Carol Cochrane (P.T.), and Linda Prothers (Preschool Teacher Rep). Rebekah Demling (ARPS PGO President); David Ziomek (Assistant Town Manager/ Director of Conservation and Development) and Nathaniel Malloy (Senior Town Planner)

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC

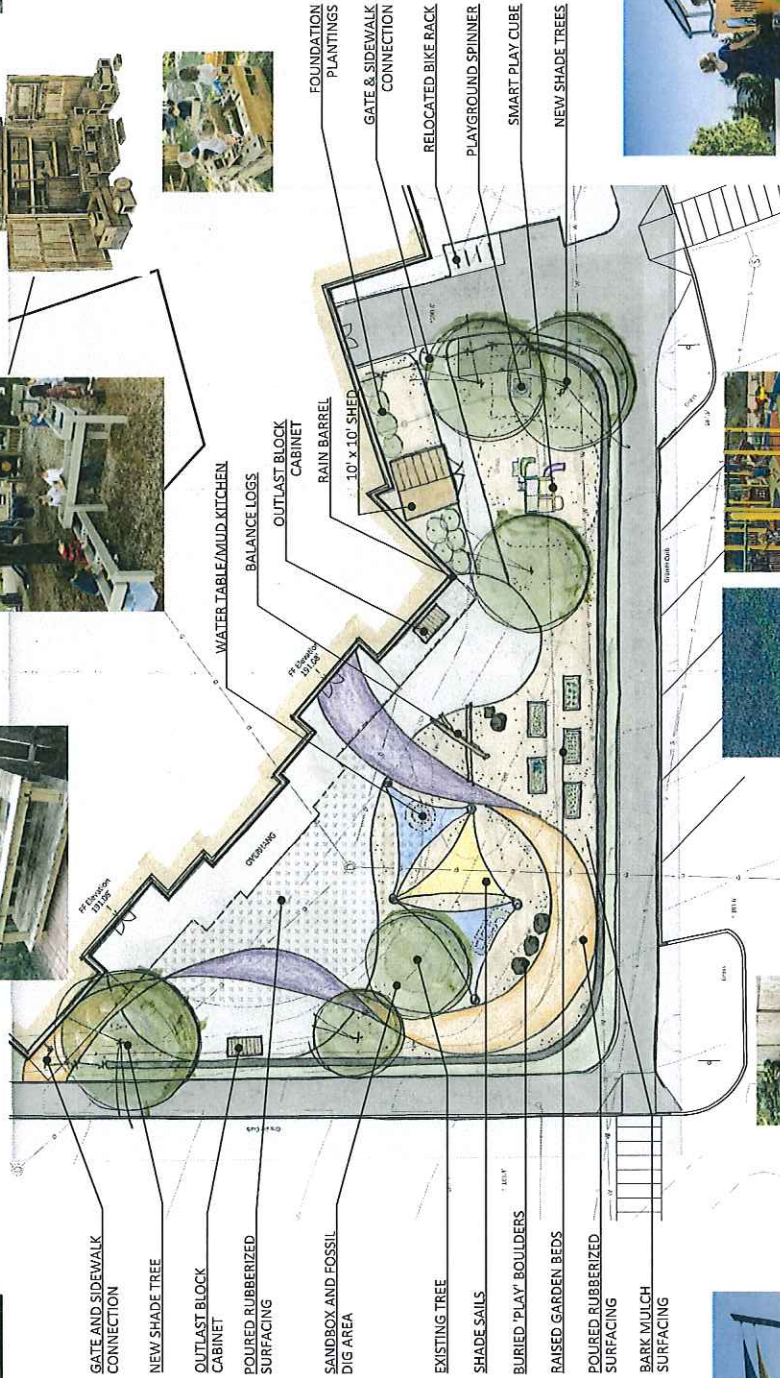
Our goal is to have a safe ADA compliant and accessible playground with materials that meet current standards and regulations and are open-ended and provide children with the opportunity to develop a variety of skills including:

- large and small muscle motor activities
- social skills as they plan and play together
- executive functioning as develop a play plan and then follow-through
- math and science skills and concepts, as they use sand and water materials, and access raised garden beds to learn about life science
- communication, as they have opportunities to communicate with one another as they participate in pretend play, negotiate turn-taking and sharing of equipment and materials.

This proposal would benefit all children and all learners—preschool aged children from the community and public—as all the design and materials address areas of early childhood development that benefit this age group. All children will be able to access and use this equipment and materials. This play space would be open to the public outside of school hours as are all other school play grounds.

PRESCHOOL PLAY AREA AT CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



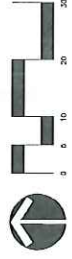


Crocker Farm Pre-School Play Area

Conceptual Master Plan

Amherst, MA

June 23, 2015



Crocker Farm Pre-School Play Area

Amherst, Massachusetts

Opinion of Probable Cost

Prepared by: The Berkshire Design Group, Inc.

6/23/2015

| Item | Unit | Quantity | Unit Price | Total |
|---|------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Demolition | | | | |
| 1. Remove Existing Playground Surfacing | LS | 1 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 2. Reset Manhole Cover | EA | 1 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| 3. Modify & Raise Existing Light Pole | EA | 1 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 4. Remove Fence | LF | 230 | \$8.00 | \$1,840.00 |
| | | | Subtotal | \$5,440.00 |
| Earthwork/Site Preparation | | | | |
| 1. Earthwork/Grading | CY | 520 | \$12.00 | \$6,240.00 |
| 2. Strip and Stockpile Topsoil | CY | 105 | \$8.00 | \$840.00 |
| | | | Subtotal | \$7,080.00 |
| Site Improvements | | | | |
| 1. Connect Drainage from Building | LS | 1 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 2. Modular Precast Retaining Wall | FF | 525 | \$32.00 | \$16,800.00 |
| 3. New Subdrain for Retaining Wall | LF | 295 | \$25.00 | \$7,375.00 |
| 4. 3" Bit. Conc. Walk Pavement | SF | 250 | \$5.75 | \$1,437.50 |
| 5. Poured Rubberized Surfacing | SF | 2,900 | \$22.00 | \$63,800.00 |
| 6. Engineered Wood Fiber Mulch (12" deep) | SF | 3,636 | \$4.25 | \$15,453.00 |
| 7. "Play" Boulders | EA | 5 | \$250.00 | \$1,250.00 |
| 8. Water Spigot | EA | 1 | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| | | | Subtotal | \$108,815.50 |
| Site Furnishings | | | | |
| 1. Shade Sails | EA | 3 | \$3,500.00 | \$10,500.00 |
| 2. Smart Cube Play Structure | EA | 1 | \$24,000.00 | \$24,000.00 |
| 3. Playground Spinner | EA | 1 | \$9,690.00 | \$9,690.00 |
| 4. We-Saw | EA | 1 | \$12,570.00 | \$12,570.00 |
| 5. 10'x10' Shed | EA | 1 | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00 |
| 6. Outlast Block Set | EA | 2 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 7. Balance Logs | EA | 1 | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 8. Mud Kitchen | EA | 1 | \$2,200.00 | \$2,200.00 |
| 9. Triple Play Water Table | EA | 1 | \$2,300.00 | \$2,300.00 |
| 10. Sand Box | EA | 1 | \$4,600.00 | \$4,600.00 |
| 11. Fossil Dig Pit | EA | 1 | \$1,800.00 | \$1,800.00 |
| 12. Raised Garden Beds | EA | 5 | \$500.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 13. Outlast Cascade | EA | 1 | \$1,600.00 | \$1,600.00 |
| 14. Tubular Ornamental Fence & Gates (2) | LF | 215 | \$90.00 | \$19,350.00 |
| 15. Rain Barrel | EA | 1 | \$480.00 | \$480.00 |
| | | | Subtotal | \$97,590.00 |
| Planting & Seeding | | | | |
| 1. Hydrosseed & Fertilize | SY | 2500 | \$1.35 | \$3,375.00 |
| 2. Large/Shade Tree (4" cal.) | EA | 5 | \$1,200.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| 3. Shrub Plantings | LS | 1 | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| | | | Subtotal | \$11,875.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | \$230,800.50 |
| Contractor O&P (15%) | | | | \$34,620.08 |
| Contingency (5%) | | | | \$11,540.03 |
| TOTAL CONSTRUCTION | | | | \$276,960.60 |



Site Specifics
PO Box 325
Rochester, MA 02770
888-551-3155
508-763-0208 fax

June 15, 2014

Rebekah Demling
Crocker Farm Elementary School
280 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Rebekah:

I have conducted a cursory review of the current pre-school play area at Crocker Farm Elementary School and present the following issues for your consideration. These issues are based upon the ASTM 1487-07a, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use and the ADAAG. This consumer safety performance specification establishes nationally recognized safety standards for public playground equipment to address injuries identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

This review is not meant to take the place of a more comprehensive playground safety audit and should not be taken as such.

Sincerely,

Cindy Maak, CPSI
Principal



Playgrounds ♦ Shelters ♦ Waterslides ♦ Site Amenities ♦ Safety Surfacing



Using a loose fill surfacing material makes it difficult to maintain ADA accessibility due to ongoing settling of the material. Currently this play area is not ADA accessible.



ASTM F-1487-07a

10.1 Public playgrounds shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibilities Guidelines (ADAAG) for Buildings and Facilities: Play Areas

ADAAG

An accessible route is required for access to all public play areas. Grass is not an acceptable surfacing for an accessible route.

ASTM F-1487-07a

5.3 Play structures shall be anchored to the ground or not intended to be relocated.



Non-commercial playground equipment is not suitable for public play areas because it is not subjected to the same standards as commercial playground equipment and may contain unidentified hazards. It is also not ADA accessible and therefore is in violation of ADAAG.

Because there are multiple pieces of home play equipment located in this play area, pieces which are not permanently installed into the ground tend to migrate over time. These pieces create a fall hazard, where a child could fall off of the climbing piece onto another piece of play equipment instead of the protective surfacing.

Also because these pieces migrate over time, it becomes difficult to maintain proper use zones around all of the equipment. The multi-colored climber shown in the right hand corner of the picture below is too close to the end of the protective surfacing.

